



## Gavin's Story

Gavin Norton was a healthy baby born in October 2009. When he was two months old, he got a cough. His doctor told his parents it was a common cold.

A few days later Gavin's cough got worse making it hard for him to breathe. His parents took him to the hospital. The doctors tested Gavin, and told Gavin's parents he had whooping cough (pertussis).

The doctors and hospital staff did everything they could to save Gavin, but sadly he died January 7, 2010.

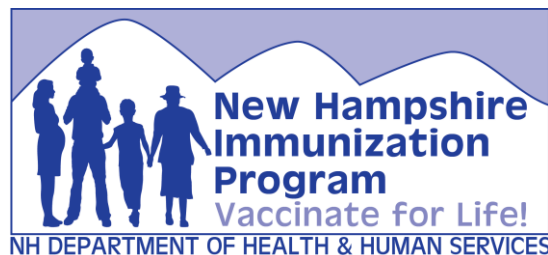
You can see Gavin's mom speak about Gavin's story and the importance of whooping cough immunization at <http://shotbyshot.org/pertussis/gavins-story/>

## How You Can Make a Difference

**Protect yourself to protect your baby.** Adults can get the Tdap vaccine that protects them from whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria. Getting this vaccine prevents you from catching whooping cough and passing it along to your baby.

**Ask everyone in close contact with your baby if they have gotten the Tdap shot.** Anyone 11 years and older who is around a baby under 1 year old should get the Tdap vaccine.

**Make sure your baby gets all the DTap vaccines to get fully protected.** Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about when your baby should get each vaccine in the DTap series.



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[HTTP://WWW.DHHS.NH.GOV/DPHS/IMMUNIZATION](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/immunization)

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# Protect yourself to protect your baby



Create a circle of protection around your baby from whooping cough

# Create a circle of protection around your baby!

## What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough, also called pertussis, is a serious disease that is spread through contact with someone who has it.

### The Facts:

- Infants are at greatest risk for getting pertussis and then having severe complications from it, including death. About half of infants younger than 1 year old who get pertussis are hospitalized, and 1 or 2 in 100 hospitalized infants die.
- Whooping cough can cause seizures, brain damage, or pneumonia. Babies with whooping cough can cough so hard that they stop breathing or bleed behind the eyes.

## How do babies get whooping cough?

- Babies usually catch whooping cough from older siblings, parents or caregivers who do not know they are sick with whooping cough.
- Whooping cough is spread by coughing or sneezing and is very contagious.

## Is there a vaccine for whooping cough?

- Yes, babies need to have a series of shots (called DTaP) before they are fully protected from whooping cough.
- The DTaP shots are part of a series of vaccines your baby will get in their first year. DTaP protects babies from diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough (pertussis).



## How many shots does my baby need?

- Your baby will be *partially* protected after 4 DTaP shots given at 2, 4, 6 and at 15-18 months of age.
- Your baby will be *fully* protected after getting 1 more DTaP shot given at 4-6 years.

## How do I get protected from the whooping cough?

- The vaccine you got as a child wore off by the time you were 10–15 years old.
- Talk to your doctor about getting the adult whooping cough vaccine (Tdap).

## What is a circle of protection?

- A circle of protection means that everyone who comes in contact with your baby is protected from whooping cough.

## How can I create a circle of protection to keep my baby healthy?

- Moms should get the Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy. Ideally, the vaccine should be given between 27 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.
- It is safe to get the Tdap vaccine while breastfeeding..
- Dads should get the vaccine before the baby is born or right after the baby is born.
- Make sure all siblings, grandparents, caregivers, and others who will be in close contact with the baby are protected from whooping cough two weeks prior to the baby's birth.
- Make sure your baby is not around anyone who might be sick.
- Adults and teenagers with whooping cough often think they have just a cold, but that is when they are most dangerous.

